

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01819 052248Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1175
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01819

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP CONSIDERATION OF FRONT-
LINE SUMMIT ON NAMIBIA

REF: LUSAKA 1606 (NOTAL)

1. CONTACT GROUP AM MAY 5 DISCUSSED PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S
DESIRE TO CONVENE A FRONTLINE SUMMIT MEETING ON NAMIBIA
BEFORE MAY 13 (REFTEL). GROUP WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF
KAUNDA'S INTEREST IN FORCEFULLY AND DRAMATICALLY EXERTING
FRONTLINE PRESSURE IN SUPPORT OF AN EARLY AGREEMENT.

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MOST IN GROUP WERE SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, THAT SUMMIT WOULD
RESULT IN DECISIVE TURN-AROUND ON SWAPO'S PART. THEY
SAW OTHER DISADVANTAGES WITH A SUMMIT NOW: (A) NUJOMA
WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS IN NEW
YORK (ALTHOUGH IT WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT NUJOMA
WOULD IN ANY EVENT PROBABLY HAVE TO RETURN TO HIS CENTRAL
COMMITTEE IN LUSAKA BEFORE CHANGING SWAPO'S POSITION ON

THE PROPOSAL); (B) NUJOMA'S DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK WOULD INEVITABLY DELAY FINAL AGREEMENT (ASSUMING, AS MOST DO, THAT WE WILL NOT GET FINAL AGREEMENT MAY 8-9) AND SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE PROPOSAL; AND (C) WORD OF IMPENDING SUMMIT WOULD PROVIDE NUJOMA WITH AN EXCUSE NOT TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS DURING MEETING WITH CONTACT GROUP MAY 8 (AS IT MAY ALREADY HAVE DONE). AT THE SAME TIME, IF HE REFUSES TO BUDGE IN OUR NEXT MEETING, SUMMIT PRESSURE ON NUJOMA COULD BE JUST WHAT WILL BE NEEDED.

2. GROUP AGREED THAT BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO RESPOND TO CHONA ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

- (A) EXPRESS SINCERE GRATIFICATION AT KAUNDA'S INTEREST IN HELPING, APPRECIATION FOR THE MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT GIVEN OUR EFFORT BY THE FRONTLINE UP UNTIL NOW, AND OUR FEELING THAT CONTINUED FRONTLINE COUNSELING WITH SWAPO WILL BE CRUCIAL TO EVENTUAL SUCCESS.

- (B) INFORM HIM THAT THE CONTACT GROUP MEETING WITH SWAPO IS SCHEDULED FOR 1100 MAY 8, AND THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE NEEDED. (FYI. BEFORE IDEA OF SUMMIT CAME UP, WE HAD THOUGHT THAT THE MEETINGS WITH SWAPO MIGHT CONTINUE INTO TUESDAY AND POSSIBLY WEDNESDAY. END FYI.)

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- (C) WE WILL NOT HAVE ANY CLEAR FEEL FOR THE PROSPECTS FOR SWAPO MOVEMENT TOWARD AGREEMENT, AND THUS THE NEED FOR THE PRESSURE OF A FRONTLINE SUMMIT, UNTIL WE HAVE OUR MEETING MAY 8. WE WOULD OF COURSE PLAN TO INFORM KAUNDA OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AT THAT STAGE URGENTLY.

- (D) HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE CRUCIAL STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING FORWARD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAID INTO ANGOLA AND THE POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF OUR EFFORT IN THE COURSE OF SECURITY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS, WE SUGGEST PRESIDENT KAUNDA GO AHEAD AND MAKE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SUMMIT, SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION IF A SUMMIT PROVES TO BE UNNECESSARY AFTER OUR MEETING WITH SWAPO MAY 8.

3. COMMENT. WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE OUTCOME OF MONDAY'S MEETING WILL BE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SUGGEST WHAT TYPE OF SUBSEQUENT ACTION WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE. WHILE WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT SWAPO WILL EVIDENCE MUCH FLEXIBILITY IN

THAT MEETING, WE ARE ALSO HESITANT TO RECOMMEND IN ADVANCE
OF THE MEETING A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN
NUJOMA'S IMMEDIATELY LEAVING NEW YORK AND PERHAPS SETTING
OUT ON ANOTHER ROUND-THE-WORLD JUNKET (A TRIP WHICH IS
ALREADY RUMORED AROUND THE UN). BY SENDING THE ABOVE
MESSAGE, WE DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO DISCOURAGE KAUNDA'S
DESIRE TO INTERVENE HELPFULLY ON NAMIBIA; EFFECTIVE FRONT-
LINE PRESSURE MAY WELL CONTINUE TO BE OUR MOST IMPORTANT
LEVERAGE. LEONARD

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